

## Lesson 4 The Church Gathering

A little baby also needs a good family to take care of them. The church is a believer's spiritual home. We call each other brother and sister. The "church" is not a "church building." A home does not need a house to exist. If a family is together, having parents with us is a home. Similarly, the church is not a building. Brothers and sisters are together. The Lord is with us and this is the church.

### **The church must have five basic functions:**

- Worship- We worship God together.
- Fellowship - brothers and sisters communicate with each other.
- Teaching – Bible, spiritual knowledge, and disciple training.
- Evangelism- The greatest function of the church is to deliver the gospel to everyone.
- Working with the Holy Spirit—We must have the power, revelation, comfort, and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

### Three things are to be honored in the church:

1. **The Lord's Supper** – This was established by our Lord Himself, is for the memory of our Lord. Remember that the Lord Jesus crucified our sins. He died on our behalf for our sins; and the blood that He shed washed and purified all our injustices. But this supper is not salvation. Salvation is recognized by what we confess with our mouths and believe in our heart. Only by this can we be saved. The Lord's Supper is to remember the Lord's sacrifice, and to give thanks for our salvation.
2. **Baptism** - This is also the example set for us by the Lord Jesus. Baptism is a sign that we are dead and resurrected with the Lord. After we believe in the Lord, we should have a new life, and baptism is a testimony to our new life. When our entire person is immersed in water, we "die" with Christ on our behalf; when raised from the water we are "resurrected" with Christ, and gain new life, and live a new life. This is a very important testimony of our Christian faith. But just as with the Lord's Supper, baptism is just a witness, not salvation.

3. **Dedication** - This is one of the most important experiences of our Christian life; it is also our only way to get blessing from God.

### There are three different kinds of dedication

#### **1. The dedication of life**

Everything we have comes from the Lord and belongs to the Lord. Therefore, we should offer our own body and soul as a living sacrifice to the Lord.

Don't care about what kind of industry you're engaged in. We all offer ourselves, because although each person offers different amounts before God; the quality of the offering is the same.

#### **2. The dedication of time**

Maybe you have never heard of the dedication of time, but we must mention the dedication of time. Because many people can spend a lot of time online to browse the internet, chat with friends or do other things. But they claim there is no time to read the Bible, pray, preach the gospel, and train disciples.

Every week you have 168 hours. If you are willing to give one-tenth of the time to God- that is, 17 hours per week, or about two and a half hours a day dedicated to God- then you have time to read prayers, evangelize, and train people. This kind of devotion is to please the Lord. We must set a timetable.

You have the opportunity to be close to the Lord. If you are close to God, and God is close to you, then Satan flees from you.

#### **3. The dedication of money**

Tithing belonged to the law in Old Testament and was fulfilled by Jesus on the cross. Those who want to tithe must also sacrifice animals and a lot more. Thank Jesus who fulfilled this.

But it is a good voluntary rule to give ten percent for expanding the Kingdom, support those who are called to travel to other areas and helping the poor. Each house church decide how to use the amount given. Also all house churches in an area can agree to collect money for some reasons they want to help.

All what we have belongs to God when we are born again into the Kingdom of God. We are expected to live to Gods honor.

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## **Lesson 5 God is Heavenly Father**

A baby must immediately know who the head of the household is and have the best relationship with their father.

Jesus taught his disciples to call on "Our Father in Heaven." The Bible teaches us that God is a father. He loves to protect, supply, and train His children.

### **1. Father's love**

"The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.'" Jeremiah 31:3

### **2. Heavenly Father's Protection**

"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one." 2 Thessalonians 3:3

### **3. Heavenly Father's Provision**

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

### **4. Heavenly Father's Training**

"'because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.' Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?" Hebrews 12:6-7

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## **Lesson 6 Spread the Gospel**

As the little baby grows up, they need to work and give back to their family.

Every disciple of Christ should go preach the gospel, but some believers never preach the gospel. Maybe they are timid and do not have confidence because they are still just a believer, not a disciple. So we encourage every one of our trainees to have a glimpse of the blessings of evangelism. Here in the universe we should hear four calls for us to preach the gospel:

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### **1. Voice from above**

"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'"

Mark 16:15

Jesus personally called us to preach the gospel to everyone before ascending to heaven!

When Isaiah worshiped God in the temple, he heard God's cry from heaven:

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” Isaiah 6:8

God has a need for you and I to preach the gospel to all people. I don't know your situation, but when I was evangelizing, many people asked me, “Where is your God? If you let me see your God, I will believe in Him.

Look, we are in the temple. You can see the idols being worshipped there;

if we worship the trees,

we see the trees that are there; if we worship the stones, we see the stones that are there, but where is your God? If I can see it, I will believe.

" Every time I came home with such a problem, I knelt and prayed,

“God! I know that you are a true

and a living God! I know you are an omnipresent, omniscient God! You are now in my heart; I am with you. But how can I present you to these people? Give me a hand, here, God, Almighty.” I thought it would be great if He will suddenly fall out of heaven and announce to the people in a loud voice: “I am God! You have to believe in me! Isn't it all settled? Who dares to ask who is there? Who dares not believe it?”

But then God rebuked me. Yes, God is omnipotent. God Almighty, He has

absolute power and can suddenly come down from heaven and announce

Himself God! But God is a righteous and holy God, and our people are sinners.

Once sinners suddenly see the holy and righteous God, we will all be judged and condemned to perish! But the other side of God is full of love and mercy.

Because of God's mercy and compassion, though He has the power to suddenly leave heaven, He does not want to do so, lest we die. The Father's intention is that every sinner would see the truth and repent before reaching this righteous and holy God. Now that we have had the blood of Jesus cover us, we have become justified. When we then see this holy and righteous God, we are righteous, because God saw the precious blood of Jesus and called every person who believes righteous.

So our God has a need. He needs you and I to respond to His voice to preach the Gospel to everyone. Many people have responded to this call and passed the gospel to you and also to me. We have already been saved. The blood of Jesus has already covered us. Therefore, we can see the face of the Father at all times without fear because we are justified. Today God's same call to you is to preach the gospel to all those around us. We should respond to this cry from above!

## **2. The voice from below**

Jesus told us in Luke 16 about the story of a rich man and Lazarus: The rich man had a great day's feast; but Lazarus could only eat the crumbs that fell from his table. One day, Lazarus died and was taken by the angel to Abraham's arms. Later, the rich man also died. He suffered in the underworld. When he saw Lazarus in the arms of Abraham, he shouted, "My father Abraham, have mercy on me! Send Lazarus to tap the water with his fingertips, and cool my tongue; for I am in these flames, which are extremely painful." But when he discovered that there was an abyss between them, he found that those on opposite sides could not touch. In Luke 16:27-28, the rich man said, "Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment."

Jesus told this story to us so that we should hear the deep voice echoing from the afflicted souls that are in the grave: "Please go to my home and preach the gospel there, because I am suffering for my sin here and I don't want my family to come to this painful place."

Friends! For many people, today may be the last time you have the opportunity to meet them. Take the opportunity now to witness and evangelize to them. Maybe tomorrow they will never return! If you do not preach the gospel to them today, tomorrow they may suffer in the underworld!

## **3. The voice from the inside**

Since Paul followed Jesus Christ, he dedicated his life to the Lord. From the depths of his heart there was a call to him to preach the gospel.

“For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me.” 1 Corinthians 9:16-17

Paul encouraged us to preach the gospel to save people; anywhere, anytime, and anybody. Because he always had a cry from inside him calling out to him to reach everybody. Therefore, in the synagogues, markets, prisons and even before the king, he was compelled to preach the gospel and save people. Every one of us who is blessed, we must have such a cry from our hearts to force us to preach the gospel and lead the whole family to salvation.

#### **4. The voice from outside**

“Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.” Acts 16:6-10

When Paul heard this call from the outside, he immediately responded to this call. This is a very important response, because before this Paul's mission was in Asia Minor and Macedonia is in Europe. So his response was to bring the gospel from Asia Minor to Europe. This was the first foreign mission! This also made the gospel spread throughout Europe. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Britain was a strong country. Thanks to the Lord, Britain sent many missionaries to teach around the world. Then the gospel was brought from Europe to the Americas. In the 19th and 20th centuries the United States became a powerful nation. Thanks to the Lord, the United States also sent many missionaries to all parts of the world. The Gospel has spread from Asia all around the world back to Asia.

Today, the global economic center is in Asia. It is also the time when the Gospel

needs to be returned to Asia from Asia again. But on this road to Jerusalem, it is the most challenging Islamic region of the Gospel. But God loves the world (including everyone in the world) and we are convinced that when we respond to this call, the Holy Spirit is with us because our Heavenly Father wants everyone to be saved and not perish.

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## **Lesson 7 Long-term Bible Study**

A growing person needs the best nutrition and healthy exercise his whole life so that his mind and body can grow healthily. The nourishment for the Christian life is God's Word. When a first-time believer understands and practices the basic truth of the initial lessons, we should immediately teach them to lead the establishment of the most important part of the training group, namely, the "long-term simple Bible study."

Every time you preach and explain the Bible to them, they can receive it and learn. But most new believers will only rely on your supply. They do not know how to receive light, grace, and blessing from God themselves. Therefore, we must teach them a simple Bible study method. Then, they can not only study the Bible themselves, but also lead a group to study the Bible. Further, they can teach the members of that group to study the Bible by themselves.

There are many devotional books and many Bible reading materials, but most of them are not able to teach believers to read the Bible and understand that the Lord Jesus wants us to obey the truth. In fact, there are many spiritual books, but none can replace God's Word, the Scriptures. One can directly learn from the Word of God, gain power from the Word, and trust and obey God's Word. This is the most important lesson. Therefore, we should ask the Holy Spirit to shine upon us and guide our spiritual growth. Because of this, our only study material is the Bible.

**Each time we study, we just read a few Bible verses.**

**Then each member answersthree simple questions:**

1. What does this passage "Say"? Everyone reads the Scriptures once in their own words, so that they will remember the meaning of this scripture.
2. What does this verse teach us to "Obey"? The main significance of studying the Bible is obedience.
3. How can I "Share" this verse with others? We learned from the Bible, not just for knowledge, but to share it with others.

To help you remember this study method, we use the acronym "SOS".

This is a simple method of Bible study. Do not make it complicated. Once complex, the average person can't do it. But if you can imagine using this method long-term, this is actually a very detailed way of looking through the Bible.

Some people think that the three questions are too simple, so they add many other questions. As a result, many discussions have been added and people feel very rich. However, once it becomes complicated, for many people (including new believers), it becomes very difficult to teach others.

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T4T gives our trainer Bible knowledge: The first is the daily Bible reading from the third lesson (read the four chapters of the Bible each day); the second is the long-term Bible study from the seventh lesson (in the long run this is a very comprehensive Bible study). You can go online at [www.t4tglobalmissions.org](http://www.t4tglobalmissions.org) to download course materials in different languages.